Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 have been canceled.

Claim 4 has indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the limitations of claims 3 and 1. It is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is now allowable.

Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and has been indicated as allowable if claim 4 is allowed. Accordingly, allowance of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and brought into compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 6 has been amended to correct formal matters. It is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is no longer rejectable under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 6 has also been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 6 and have been indicated as allowable if claim 6 were allowable. Accordingly, allowance of claims 7-15 is respectfully requested.

New claim 16 has been added by this amendment. Claim 16 recites a belt retractor comprising a force limiter, said belt

flange (1a), and a disk (2) that can be non-rotatably blocked on said frame, said disk (2) and said flange (1a) of said belt spool (1) are adapted to be coupled by a cutting element (3) which, upon a relative rotation between said disk (2) and said flange (1a), comes into a coupling position and cuts material when said relative rotation is continued, wherein said cutting element (3) is accommodated in a recess (12) of said disk (2) and supported for movement in an axial direction as well as in a circumferential direction relative to said disk (2), and in that said cutting element has a blade that in said coupling position engages on an end face of said flange (1a) opposite to said blade, and wherein said flange (1a) has a control pin (5) that transfers said cutting element (3) by means of said control pin (5) and an inclined plane axially into said coupling position, when said relative rotation between said disk (2) and said flange (1a) occurs.

Neither U.S. 6,131,843 to Singer et al. ("Singer") nor U.S. 6,416,008 to Fuji et al. ("Fuji") discloses a flange that has a control pin that transfers a cutting element by means of said control pin and an inclined plane axially into a coupling position, when relative rotation between a disk and said flange occurs as recited in claim 16. In fact, neither Singer nor Fuji discloses a control pin and an inclined plane that transfers a cutting element. Thus, neither reference discloses the structure of claim 16.

In fact, no prior art discloses the structure of claim 16 or renders claim 16 obvious. Accordingly, allowance of claim

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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